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MOBILE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

August 28, 2015

RE: Construction of Pedestrian Facilities within Mobile County Right of Way

The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires local governments, like Mobile County, to ensure that sidewalks, crosswalks, and other pedestrian facilities within Mobile County's right of way comply with the ADA. To that end, on August 10th, 2015, the Mobile County Commission adopted a resolution that, among other things, moves the County toward compliance with ADA requirements and specifically adopted PROWAG requirements.

For homebuilders, and anyone else, that wishes to construction a sidewalk or driveway within or crossing the County right of way, a permit will be required. For new construction, the building permit will include the sidewalk. At the Final Building Inspection, the driveway and sidewalk must be complete. The sidewalk must meet the following criteria:

1. The maximum cross-slope of the sidewalk shall be 2%.
2. Where sidewalks cross driveways, the sidewalk shall maintain a minimum width of 4 feet with a maximum cross-slope of 2%.
3. Minimum width of sidewalk shall be 4 feet.
4. Each lot shall have at least one "Passing Space" measuring no less than 5 feet by 5 feet.
5. The maximum distance, as measured along the sidewalk, between "Passing Spaces" shall not exceed 200 feet.
6. Where the sidewalk is parallel to a road, the running grade of the sidewalk shall not exceed the running grade of the adjacent road.
7. Vertical discontinuities (bumps) shall not exceed ½ inch. Vertical discontinuities between ¼ and ½ inch shall be chamfered across the entire width of the sidewalk.
8. Refer to PROWAG section "R302 Pedestrian Access Routes" for additional requirements that may apply to your project. <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2011/07/26/2011-17721/accessibility-guidelines-for-pedestrian-facilities-in-the-public-right-of-way#h-149>

Sidewalks that do not meet the PROWAG requirements must be brought into compliance before the final inspection will be approved. The ADA mandate is such that the County will bear the burden of bringing the sidewalk into compliance where the builder has failed to do so. Therefore, these requirements will be strictly enforced during construction. We strongly suggest that sidewalk installers attempt to achieve 0% cross-slope and eliminate vertical discontinuities in excess of ¼ inch. PROWAG includes other requirements for sidewalks, curb ramps, cross-walks, and other pedestrian facilities within the County right of way.